

# Forests in Iowa?

*Forests in Iowa.*

*Experience Iowa's State Forests.*



Iowa Department of Natural Resources / Bureau of Forestry

**DNR** *naturally*

**T**o walk among the tall trees and see their quiet, majestic beauty is to appreciate the State Forests in Iowa. Iowa began establishing a state forest system in the 1930's. The purpose — to help protect special and unique areas; to teach Iowans about forest management; and, to educate about the value and use of trees.

Today, the public can see and learn about the lifecycle of a forest (a major management goal is to perpetuate Iowa's great oak forests) and about its' importance for future generations. As you visit the State Forests, see how change occurs over time in the forest. What will you see?

## **New and Young Forests**

*(two to ten years old)*

Tree seedlings are growing among herbs and shrubs, the sun is abundant and young stands are regenerating oak forests. Animals found here: ruffed grouse, field sparrow, eastern kingbird, white-tailed deer, red fox, cottontail rabbit and American toad.



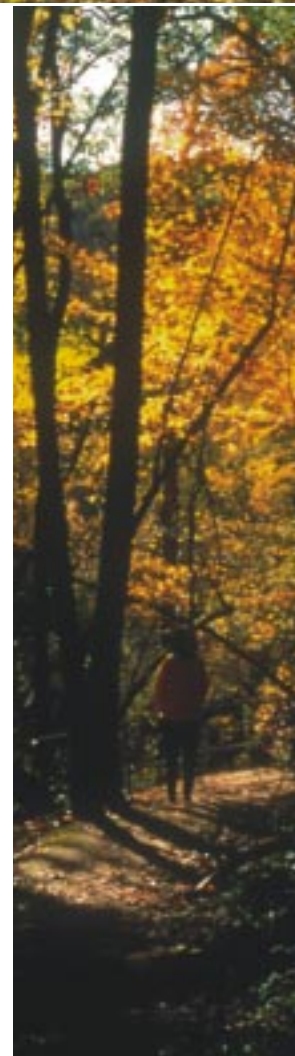
## **Middle Age Forests**

Natural crowding has begun and the forest canopy is open enough to allow for development of ground vegetation and the beginning of an under story. Animals found here: wild turkey, redheaded woodpecker, whip-poor-will, little brown bat, opossum, white-tailed deer and five-lined skunk.

## **Older Forests**

Distinguished by larger trees, complex canopy and a highly developed under story, should there be a major disturbance or harvest in this area, it will revert and begin the process over as a New Young Forest. Animals found here: pileated woodpecker, scarlet tanager, great-crested flycatcher, ovenbird, American redstart, red-shouldered hawk, gray fox, wild turkey and red bat.

**P**lease come, see, enjoy and appreciate your State Forests. There is much to see and do, much to learn about — plus, a chance to truly appreciate these beautiful destinations in Iowa.





# *Foster a Forest Legacy*



## **START A LIVING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Iowans today enjoy trees left by generations past. This legacy reminds us that nature needs time and thrives even after our time on earth has past.

One way to leave your legacy in Iowa is to help plant trees. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has a new program called "Foster a Forest Legacy." At the four State Forests, you can donate a legacy tree planting and we will honor your gift, by placing your name on a plaque displayed at the forest headquarters. In addition, your legacy planting will be mapped so as you visit the State Forest, you and your family can watch and enjoy your gift of trees as they become a part of the State Forest for a long time to come.

"Foster a Forest Legacy" is available at Yellow River, Stephens, Loess Hills and Shimek State Forests. To participate, call the Forest Regeneration Center at 1-800-865-2477 and ask about the "Foster a Forest Legacy" program.

*For Land's Sake*

## *Sustainability* **OF OUR STATE FOREST RESOURCES**

### **STATE FORESTS PROVIDE MORE THAN RECREATION**

A major Bureau of Forestry goal is the sustainability of the state's natural resources. Iowa's state forests demonstrate that the land can be managed for multiple purposes while maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems. Some of those purposes are: campground and trail establishment; prairies burned periodically for their rejuvenation; preservation of areas with unique features; some open land farmed to provide landscape diversity and food plots for wildlife while other open areas are planted to prairies or trees; and some forest areas are harvested to intentionally create conditions needed for new forests to grow. Without proper harvests, the oak forests will gradually disappear.

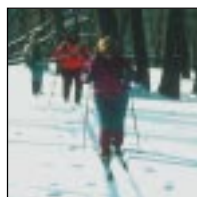
You are welcome to attend annual field days at each of the forests and learn more about state forest management. Contact your state forest headquarters for more information.

Visit our website at [www.state.ia.us/forestry](http://www.state.ia.us/forestry) for more information on a variety of forestry topics



# Welcome TO THE STATE FORESTS OF IOWA

The State Forests are available for the outdoor enthusiast to use and appreciate. While you visit the State Forest remember they are often wild places in remote areas — different **FOREST UNITS** may be several miles apart. For more information call the forest headquarters. (See the phone numbers listed at the bottom of the chart or refer to the General Information section.)



	ACTIVITIES					FACILITIES			
	Camping*	Hiking	Fishing	Hunting	Cross Country Skiing	Snowmobile Trails	Horse Trails	Pit Toilets	Picnic Areas
<b>BACKBONE</b> Headquarters — contact Yellow River State Forest		■		■	■		■		
<b>HOLST</b> For information call the State Forest Nursery		■		■	■				
<b>LOESS HILLS</b> Headquarters located in the town of Pisgah									
GIFFORD UNIT		■			■				
LITTLE SIOUX UNIT		■		■	■				
MONDAMIN UNIT		■		■	■				
PISGAH UNIT		■		■	■				
PREPARATION CANYON UNIT		■	■	■	■				■
PREPARATION CANYON STATE PARK	N8	■			■			■	■
<b>SHIMEK</b> Headquarters located in Farmington Unit									
CROTON UNIT		■		■					
DONNELSON UNIT	N11	■	■	■	■	■		■	■
FARMINGTON UNIT	N8	■	■	■	■	■		■	■
KEOSAUQUA UNIT		■		■	■	■		■	■
LICK CREEK UNIT	E35	■	■	■			■	■	■
<b>STEPHENS</b> Headquarters located in Chariton off Highway 14 and west on Mitchell to 8th St.									
CEDAR CREEK UNIT		■		■					
CHARITON UNIT		■		■					
LUCAS UNIT	N20 E10	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1000 ACRE UNIT		■		■					
UNIONVILLE UNIT		■		■					
WHITEBREAST UNIT	N30 E26	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
WOODBURN UNIT	H4	■		■					
<b>YELLOW RIVER</b> Headquarters located in Paint Creek Unit									
LUSTER HEIGHTS UNIT		■		■	■				
MUDHEN UNIT		■	■	■					
PAINT CREEK UNIT	N136 E40	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
PAINT ROCK UNIT		■		■					
WAUKON JUCTION UNIT		■		■					
YELLOW RIVER UNIT		■	■	■					
<b>WHITE PINE HOLLOW</b> Headquarters — contact Yellow River State Forest		■		■					

STATE FORESTS

## CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

BACKBONE - 563-586-2254 / HOLST - 515-233-1161 / LOESS HILLS - 712-456-2924  
SHIMEK - 319-878-3811 / STEPHENS - 641-774-4559 / YELLOW RIVER and WHITE PINE HOLLOW - 563-586-2254

\* Camping abbreviations are as follows: N = non-modern; E = equestrian; H = hike-in. Letters are followed by the number of campsites available.







## Loess Hills Forest

Occurs on one of earth's most unique landscapes – the windblown loess soils. Nearly 14,000 years ago, the glacial silt deposits where the Missouri River now flows were blown into huge sand dune like hills. With it's unique geology of steep bluffs climbing 150 to 250 feet, extreme climate differences result in dramatic native plants differences with prairies occurring on the steep south and west slopes, while forest occur elsewhere.



The Forest is nearly 11,000 acres with its' first land purchased in 1986. This same year, the National Park Service recognized a portion of Iowa's Loess Hills as a National Landmark.

The "hills" as a destination spot has a variety of recreational opportunities. The forest offers hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking, cross country skiing, wildlife watching, native prairie remnants and scenic overlooks. Vegetation is diverse, from native woodland species to native prairies filled with big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, yucca, leadplant and many more species. To keep the prairies healthy and blooming, hundreds of acres are intentionally burned each spring and fall.

The Forest Visitors Center located in the town of Pisgah features a Loess Hills diorama, an old bur oak tree, making your own loess, looking for wildlife and walking out the door onto a restored prairie. You may also pick up maps of the area, and get oriented for your trip into the forest and surrounding areas.

**HISTORICAL AND OUTDOOR SITES NEAR BY:**  
*Preparation Canyon State Park, Loess Hills Wildlife Area, Sylvan Runkel State Preserve, Desoto National Wildlife Refuge and Harrison County Welcome Center and Historical Village.*

### Loess Hills Forest Facts

**10,500 ACRES**

**5 UNITS**

*Little Sioux,  
Preparation Canyon,  
Pisgah, Mondamin, Gifford and  
Preparation Canyon State Park*

**COUNTIES**

*Harrison and Monona*



## Yellow River Forest

located in extreme northeast Iowa, with land first purchased in 1935. The forest was named for the Yellow River, which meandered through the forest area. In 1949, however, the original 1,500-acre parcel was transferred to the National Park Service to become Effigy Mounds National Monument.

Yellow River State Forest, with over 8,500 acres, is located in the 'driftless area' that escaped the glaciers during the most-recent ice ages. The result

was extremely hilly terrain now known as the 'Little Switzerland' of Iowa. There are many spectacular overlooks of the Mississippi River and inland views not common to other parts of the state.

There is much to see and do at Yellow River including camping (available all year) and an extensive trail system used by hikers, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and equestrians. Trout fishing is popular in two coldwater streams, which flow through the main campgrounds. For wildlife enthusiasts, there is abundant game and over 65 bird species in the forest, including eagles. Yellow River has an active forest management program where you will see young forests being established and old forests standing majestic.

**HISTORICAL AND OUTDOOR SITES NEAR BY:**  
*Effigy Mounds National Monument, Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve, Great River Road, Pikes Peak State Park, Backbone and White Pine Hollow State Forests and the mighty Mississippi, as well as many cold water trout streams and public hunting areas.*

### Yellow River Forest Facts

**8,500 ACRES**

**8 UNITS**

*Backbone, Luster Heights,  
Mudhen, Paint Creek,  
Paint Rock,  
Waukon Junction,  
White Pine Hollow,  
and Yellow River*

**COUNTIES**

*Allamakee, Delaware,  
Dubuque*



## Stephens Forest

is Iowa's largest forest with nearly 14,000 acres in six southern Iowa counties. The area was named in 1951 to honor Dr. T.C. Stephens for his work as an early conservationist and professor at Morningside College in Sioux City. In 1936, the Forest started as base of operations for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

Hundreds of native trees and shrubs are planted every year to reforest open ground, while existing forest cover is managed to promote the beautiful and valuable oak woodlands. Annual woodland improvement practices — such as thinning — promote forest health and diversity, pro-



Stephens Forest Facts

**14,000 ACRES**

**7 UNITS**

Lucas, Whitebreast,  
Woodburn, Chariton,  
Cedar Creek,  
Thousand Acres,  
Unionville

**COUNTIES**

Lucas, Clarke, Monroe,  
Appanoose, Davis

duce forest products and improve wildlife habitat. Most of the 14,000 acres are forested, but you will also find native prairies and farm fields with food plots for wildlife. Information on recreational opportunities (fishing, camping, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling and horse riding) is available at forest headquarters in Chariton.

### OUTDOOR AND HISTORICAL SITES NEAR BY:

Lake Rathbun, Lake Red Rock, Red Haw State Park, Honey Creek State Park, Lake Wapello State Park and Rock Creek State Park.



ROGER HILL

## Shimek Forest

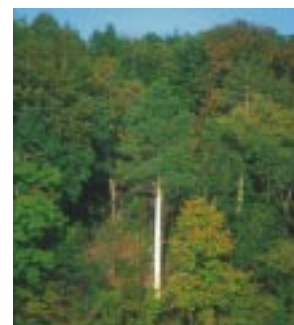
was established in the 1930's and named in honor of Dr. Bohumil Shimek, an early Iowa conservationist and former head of the University of Iowa Botany Department. The Forest with over 9,000 acres, has large unbroken areas of forested hills and valleys that endow portions of the forest with an almost wilderness character. The three main units near Farmington total more than 6,400 acres and comprise one of the largest contiguous forests remaining in Iowa.

The native forest includes oak-hickory species on ridges and hillsides and elm, cottonwood, hackberry, green ash, silver maple and walnut on the lowlands. Native prairie remnants are found in the Donnellson and Croton units. A unique feature of Shimek is over 1,000 acres of conifer forests that were planted on severely eroded crop fields in the 1930's through 1950's. Now forests of the red and white pine stand majestic.

Visitors to Shimek can enjoy four campgrounds; four lakes for boating and fishing; over 60 miles of hiking trails; and over 25 miles of equestrian trails. For bird watchers, Shimek is known for its songbirds plus wild turkey and quail. All public lands within the forest boundaries are open to hunting in season, except the campground areas.

### HISTORICAL AND OUTDOOR SITES NEAR BY:

Lacey/Keosauqua State Park, Lake Sugema Wildlife Area and the Villages of Van Buren County.



Shimek Forest Facts

**9,200 ACRES**

**5 UNITS**

Farmington,  
Donnellson,  
Lick Creek, Croton  
and Keosauqua

**COUNTIES**

Lee, Van Buren



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*Iowa Forests. naturally*

Bureau of Forestry  
502 East 9th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319



## THE IOWA STATE FOREST RULES

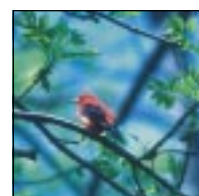
The State Forests are filled with ecosystems unique to Iowa, even the world. Please take a few minutes to read and familiarize yourself with the Iowa State Forest rules. By following the rules, everyone can enjoy their time in the State Forests.



ROGER HILL



ROGER HILL



ROGER HILL



ROGER HILL



ROGER HILL

### FIRE

be careful with fire by never leaving it unattended. Fires are permitted only where fire rings are provided. Only dead and down wood may be collected for firewood and for use only in the forest. Make sure your fire is completely out before you abandon it.

### CAMPING

All campsites are non-modern. Equestrian and regular campsites are designated in Yellow River, Shimek and Stephens Forests. Follow the instructions at the campgrounds for self-registration and payment. Camping privileges are limited to a maximum of two weeks. Beer and light wine consumption is permitted in campgrounds (no kegs). The State Park Bureau manages campgrounds and additional regulations apply.

### SNOWMOBILES

are allowed on designated routes only.

### HORSE / MULE RIDING

is allowed only on designated trails and campgrounds.

### MOUNTAIN BICYCLES

are permitted only on designated trails and roads.

### MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION

permitted only on public roads. Drive carefully and observe signs. Yield to hikers, horses and watch for children at play. ATV's are not permitted anywhere in the forests, trails or roads.

### FISHING

is permitted in all lakes and streams in the forests.

### HUNTING

is permitted in the forests. Hunters are reminded to check their regulations for open seasons and contact forest headquarters to confirm open areas. No hunting within 200 yards of a residence or campground.

### SWIMMING

there are no designated swimming locations within the forests.

### CARRY-IN/CARRY-OUT POLICY

day use visitors must take their garbage and recyclables home unless otherwise indicated. The removal of the garbage and recycling containers eliminates smells, mess and pests. Please leave the area cleaner than when you arrived.

### PERSONAL CONDUCT

excessive noise in public use areas is not allowed. Disorderly conduct is prohibited on all state lands.

### PETS

must be on a leash in campgrounds and other designated areas. Please clean up after your pet.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

For more information contact the individual State Forests below or see our website at [www.state.ia.us/forestry](http://www.state.ia.us/forestry). Each Area Forester can provide times when the forest headquarters is open.

#### LOESS HILLS

206 Polk St.  
Pisgah, IA 51564-0158  
712-456-2924

#### Area Forester:

Brent Olson  
[Brent.Olson@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Brent.Olson@dnr.state.ia.us)

#### SHIMEK

33653 Route J56  
Farmington, IA 52626  
319-878-3811

#### Area Forester:

Mark Tranmer  
[Mark.Tranmer@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Mark.Tranmer@dnr.state.ia.us)

#### STEPHENS

1111 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chariton, IA 50049  
641-774-4559

#### Area Forester:

Jeff Goerndt  
[Jeff.Goerndt@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jeff.Goerndt@dnr.state.ia.us)

#### YELLOW RIVER

(also Backbone and White Pine Hollow State Forests)  
729 State Forest Road  
Harpers Ferry, IA 52146  
563-586-2254

#### Area Forester:

Robert Honeywell  
[Robert.Honeywell@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Robert.Honeywell@dnr.state.ia.us)

#### HOLST

State Forest Nursery  
515-233-1161

#### Area Forester:

Roger Jacob  
[Roger.Jacob@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Roger.Jacob@dnr.state.ia.us)

PLEASE HELP KEEP YOUR STATE FORESTS BEAUTIFUL AND SAFE.

Visit our website at [www.state.ia.us/forestry](http://www.state.ia.us/forestry) for more information on a variety of forestry topics.